

JOHN T. BROWN.

APRIL 26, 1898.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. GIBSON, from the Committee on War Claims, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 1941.]

The Committee on War Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 1941) for the relief of John T. Brown, submit the following report:

A bill similar in its nature has been before Congress for many years, has often been reported favorably in the House, but never reached consideration.

Your committee adopt now, as their own, the report made in the House of Representatives, first session Fifty-fourth Congress, on behalf of the Committee on War Claims, a copy of which is hereto attached for information.

Your committee recommend the passage of the bill with the following amendment:

In line 6 strike out "two" and insert in lieu thereof "one."

[House Report No. 229, Fifty-fourth Congress, first session.]

The Committee on War Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 3039) for the relief of John T. Brown, submit the following report:

The facts out of which this bill for relief arises will be found stated in House report from the Committee on War Claims of the Fifty-third Congress. A careful examination of the facts involved brings your committee to the same conclusion as that reached by the committee of the last Congress.

A copy of said report is hereto attached and made a part of this report.

Your committee recommend the passage of the bill with the following amendment:

In line 6 strike out "two" and insert in lieu thereof "one."

[House Report No. 757, Fifty-third Congress, second session.]

The Committee on War Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 923) for the relief of John T. Brown, submit the following report:

This measure was considered by this committee in the Fifty-first Congress, and was reported upon favorably, which report is appended as a part of this report.

Your committee concur in the conclusions stated in that report and recommend the passage of the bill.

[House Report No. 2787, Fifty-first Congress, first session.]

The Committee on War Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 11455) for the relief of John T. Brown, report as follows:

The facts out of which this bill for relief arises will be found stated in House report from the Committee on War Claims of the Fiftieth Congress, hereto annexed and made a part of this report.

Your committee report back the bill and recommend its passage.

[House Report No. 3133, Fiftieth Congress, first session.]

The Committee on War Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 9014) for the relief of John T. Brown, report as follows:

The history of this case, from the evidence furnished the committee, is that on or about November 30, 1863, Miss Mary Love, of Kingston, Tenn., was intrusted with an important dispatch from Gen. U. S. Grant to Gen. A. E. Burnside, at Knoxville, Tenn.; that she carried said dispatch to Louisville, Tenn., accompanied part of the way by Thomas F. Carter, as escort and guide; that Miss Love then delivered the dispatch to John T. Brown, who was then a boy only about thirteen years of age, and that he carried the dispatch from there to Knoxville, Tenn., through the enemy's lines, a distance of about 13 miles, and delivered the same to Gen. A. E. Burnside, whose army was then being besieged in Knoxville by the rebels. General Burnside testifies that the dispatch was a very valuable one to the public service. That it was is shown by the fact that in January, 1873, Congress passed an act granting to Miss Mary Love \$2,000 for her services. The undertaking was a perilous one and in its accomplishment a creditable act, and for which he deserves the thanks of all lovers of their country. The evidence shows that he had to get out of Louisville through the enemy's pickets and into Knoxville through their lines. Miss Love states that he was the only person at Louisville that could be found to undertake to carry the dispatch through. It is said that one soldier (Charles Francis) lost his life in an attempt to carry a copy of same dispatch through by another route.

The committee therefore recommend the passage of the bill granting him \$2,000 in recognition of the service performed.